“Nextdoor” Boots Activist for Posting Homeless Memorial

By Bella Ringing

SANTA CRUZ — The site Nextdoor that describes itself as “the free private social network for your neighborhood community” booted Food Not Bombs co-founder Keith McHenry off its network for announcing a traditional year-end memorial reading of homeless deaths.

In what Nextdoor called “Case # 03275850,” McHenry was expelled for what Nextdoor claimed was a violation of guidelines.

“We temporarily disabled your Nextdoor account after we received a complaint regarding your recent content and found that you had violated our Community Guidelines on controversial issues,” stated Nextdoor’s message.

The Santa Cruz Sentinel, which covered the event, simply considered it newsworthy.

Somewhere between fifty-eight and eighty-four homeless people died in Santa Cruz County in 2019 according to various reports and statistics compiled by Santa Cruz County health nurse Matt Nathanson, who noted that even the lower number is the highest number of homeless deaths the county has ever recorded.

Nextdoor, which is located at 875 Steven-son St #700, San Francisco, CA 94103. (Phone: (415) 569-7971) wasn’t taking calls when our Pepper Spray Times’ staff attempted to reach them the morning of Christmas Eve.

“We have about a thousand homeless people on Berkeley’s streets today,” stated PST reporter Bella Ringing after trying to reach someone at Nextdoor’s headquarters. “As clearly as this needs to be considered a crisis, it’s an odd thing to call controversial when local city councils treat it so casually.

“Is Nextdoor considering the announcement itself controversial in some way?” asked one local councilmember. “I have it on my council website.”

“We all just consider it part of the wall-paper,” stated an anonymous Nextdoor insider regarding the increasing number of homeless people dying on the street. “Whether people live or die is really not the point. We’re just trying to allow people uncomfortable with the sight of homeless people or tents a safe place to complain about them.”

Local governments, most of which have fervently hoped the Supreme Court would agree to hear and erase the Martin vs. Boise decision inhibiting some cities from the usual practice of chasing people without

Experts Say Nation Just Not Ready for Man President

By Lew Sidity

National polls agree that the American public is just not ready for a man in the Oval Office.

“We’ve dialed into this from every possible angle,” stated Dr. Juana Dance, spokesperson for the Institute for Political Analysis in Georgia. “The clear indication is that the voting public has no way of visualizing a man president as an option.”

The conclusion follows decades of confusion about voter behavior despite vast improvements in analytics provided by internet platforms competing to hemorrhage personal consumer information into any interested hands.

“Most people are wary of male candidates track records,” explained research director Molly Scott. “People like to think of themselves as open to the option of having a man as president, but once they’re in the voting booth we’ve determined they feel deeply insecure about such a choice.”

“We have hopes for the future,” stated the institute’s director, Ivan Tacookie. “Some-day when the stakes are not so high.”

RESEARCHERS HOPE that someday voters are open to more gender diversity.

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housing from place to place and from town to town.

“Perhaps we’ve been too tolerant of these memorials,” mused one Santa Cruz City hall staff member. “After all, one man’s memorial is another man’s riot.”

* * * * *
LENAD EETER knows the answers to everything forwards and backwards.

Dear Lena, I think I would like members-only public spaces especially if I could be on the membership selection committee and just allow people I like. Is that legal?

Dear reader, apparently so. Every morning your local police officers round up the unfortunate sleeping in public places and tuck them away in custody cells. Martin vs. Boise does not appear to have crossed Berkeley’s city attorney’s desk as yet.

Dear Lena, are you real that I can get a job whispering to robots? I want that job. I’ve been muttering under my breath about them for years.

Dear reader, yes, this is a real job. The personnel department is going to be very excited that you’ve been training for years.

Dear Lena, isn’t this a one party system at this point? The Democrats are doing exactly what lost them the election last time and as a consequence begging for some third party upset to hand the election to the incumbent. I’ve seen this movie. What kind of democracy is this?

Dear reader, the best money can buy. Although if you live in Berkeley, California, you live in an “all party all the time” system; no housing crisis, climate crisis, labor crisis or political crisis even floats momentarily above the all-important radar of the holiday party. Stand between these people and the hors d’oeuvres at your peril.

Dear Lena, so after all those renovations Berkeley’s BART plaza is empty all the time. Is that what they wanted? It’s totally weird.

Dear reader, apparently so. If one sits down at other than an uncomfortable chair or bustop, one quickly gets surrounded by a full phalanx of uniformed officers exhibiting concern about whether or not one is altogether well. It’s peculiar what over two million dollars in undemocratic business improvement district public money will do.

Ask Lena about disposable parks at cdenney@igc.org.

“Members Only” Public Spaces Proposal Gets Traction

BERKELEY’S TELEGRAPH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (TBID) gave up trying to get only the “right people” to enjoy the use of the publicly funded benches, planters, pay phone, and odd sculpture at Triangle Park in favor of fencing it off and trying to de-list it as a park to get around Measure L, the pesky Berkeley ordinance that protects parks and open space.

By Imogene Iues

“We’re looking at it,” responded one tense city staffer when asked about the expensive effort to trade in one population on Berkeley’s streets for another more preferred group through the creative use of street furniture and perhaps a “members-only” pilot project.

“They hemorrhaged public money into consultants’ pockets for this nutty stuff, including the “Turd Cat” sculpture, which is actually kind of popular,” stated one of the local merchants allowed into the curated opportunities for public involvement. “The total public cost of the “Telegraph Avenue Public Realm Plan” was $144,737, which would have paid to house a lot of people. And that doesn’t include the costs of fencing it all off when they figured out they didn’t like the people who used the benches.”

According to insiders, the Berkeley City Manager is working closely with the Telegraph Business Improvement District to de-list the open space as a “median strip” instead of a park despite such a move’s violation of Measure L, the Public Parks and Open Space Preservation ordinance which passed as a city-wide ordinance in 1987 (Chapter 6.42).

“Some of the Berkeley City Council wasn’t even born in 1987,” hastily explained one City Hall staff member. “And some were toddlers absent any memory of the days when planning for housing was oriented toward public needs rather than developer profit and parks and open space were prized as a public good. It’s probably like some faraway storybook to them.”
Nailed It

Twelve Year Old Genius Completes Puzzle in Seconds

THE SMITHSONIAN IS VYING for this final display showing Lorna Mia-Sweater’s innovative technique for completing a puzzle in record-setting time.

By Erin Water

“We weren’t even really paying attention,” stated the pleased parents of twelve-year-old Lorna Mia-Sweater’s record-setting puzzle achievement, which experts say has changed the gaming world.

“We’ll see start-ups based on this innovative technique,” stated Silicon Valley venture capitalists. “She’ll get millions in endorsements for shoes and cereal.”

“She’s going to need a lawyer and an estate planner,” agreed one financial consultant after reviewing the phenomenon which Mia-Sweater’s parents swear she thought up without their help. “She’s going to need an agent.”

* * * * *

Another Job You Won’t Get

By Enoch Sidover

Job seekers worried that the new robot cafe wouldn’t have any place for them were right.

“It’s the future. It’s the labor-free workplace,” stated Suzi Scelzi, a brand ambassador for Bbox, which is owned by Greg Becker, CEO and co-founder of Nourish. “Employees are just so yesterday.”

Bbox customers order through an app or through a tablet outside the café by creating a customer profile including phone number and “payment information”, which implies that there might be some issue with taking customers’ cash.

“We’re not sure about the cash thing,” whispered one City Hall staffer from the City Manager’s office. “Finding out at all appears to be an issue. Those robots have really big arms. We’re trying to figure out who around here has to be the one to ask it.”

Nay-sayers expressed concern about the labor-free business concept in a town which has finally taken initial steps toward a living wage.

“If you like what Uber and Lyft did to the taxi drivers and what Amazon did to bookstores, you’ll love what this does to coffeeshops,” stated Elsie Ewencourt, a labor economist who is currently unemployed. “Look forward to getting your morning latte from a 250 pound pile of bolts after standing in a long line of dead souls.”

Scelzi replied to questions about whether the robot cafe data-mines its customers by saying “f-- yeah!”, explaining that they turn around and sell customers’ data like there’s no tomorrow in slightly more colorful language. “That’s the whole point,” she said. “I mean, f-- coffee.”

* * * * *

We Can’t Draw Comics by Franz Toast

I TRIED MEDICATION FOR MY DEPRESSION.

IT WAS EXPENSIVE AND I STILL FELT TERRIBLE.

SO I SWITCHED TO CHAMPAGNE.
The hills and the nature preserve at Cesar Chavez Park were thoroughly Trumped by four young boys in state-of-the-art outdoor gear and an inexplicably strange animosity toward actual nature.

“It’s an odd combination,” stated Dr. Eve Enow, specialist in passive-aggressive pathologies. “Especially in the Bay Area, where kids tend to grow up thinking saving the whales and respecting the environment is a good thing.”

Stewards of the park shook their heads, worried that all nature everywhere might need to be fenced off due to the growing ratio of the completely clueless in any given population.

“We clearly underestimated,” said Enow.

* * * *

THE MOUNTAIN BIKERS CALLED this creation “A--holes in need of spray paint.”

IF YOU KNOW THESE GUYS make them drink robot coffee.

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We appreciate those who understand that satire is serious business.